

May 16, 1973

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President, members of the legislature. I realize this resolution is not going to do all things for all people and to solve all of our problems. But I think certainly it is an attempt in the right direction to recognize that we do have a serious fuel shortage. For example I've visited with many members of this body, they say they are getting letters concerning this shortage. In Osmond which is a part of the 19th legislative district which I represent, a Mr. Smith, a Skelly dealer, called me yesterday afternoon, no day before yesterday, at about 3:00 and he said he had pumped his last gallon of diesel fuel and he will get no more fuel from his supplier nor will his supplier get any more fuel until June 1. When this happens in an area such as Osmond, which is very, very, strong in the production, planting, farming operation and mainly of corn. It is an irrigated country those customers of that dealer are at an absolute standstill. At a time when it is imperative to put that corn in the ground, so there can be a crop. The federal government recognizes the need for an increase of Agriculture, agricultural products and grains, they have increased considerably and recommend that farmers only retire 10% of their land instead of 25, 30 or 40 or 50 as in past years. They are recommending only a 10% of idle acres. So this as a minimum would be a 15% increase. So for the farming operations, not all fuels I don't mean but for farming operations, this calls for at least a 15% increase in the product. I think it is very vital to those of us who use automobiles that we can make our necessary trips. There are several stations in this town which have close up, because they don't have a supplier. I know there are some who will say, that some are hoarding, have bought additional gallonage. This may be so in a few instances. But it is not the rule, it is the exception. We're asking in this resolution because we are not in a position to issue a proclamation. We in the legislature, but by the passage of this resolution, we're prevailing upon the Governor, who has the right and the authority and I feel in this instance, especially the responsibility to issue a proclamation to carry out these things. If he wants to be more specific, on any one of the items, this is his prerogative. But these are guidelines which I feel this body should recognize. Now if you will note, no place in this resolution are we prevailing upon the problems of industry and commerce and so forth, to the detriment or to the shortcoming of agriculture, or are we talking about agriculture only. We are talking about business, industry, agriculture, and transportation. Though we are covering the entire front about a problem which is here, now whether this is a problem created by the major oil companies or by certain individuals in the oil industry. This is not for us and neither can we resolve or solve that problem, but we can make the best of things as they are before us and this is the approach to make. I would like to offer an amendment in the second whereas, whereas at the present time, such shortage can be alleviated only by a reduction of use in all types of fuel. I think that is a little too much, too all inclusive. I would ask that if we insert it appears, whereas at the present time, such shortage it appears can be alleviated only by a reduction in use of all types of fuel. I think it is important that we add it appears because otherwise we are taking the assumption that everything is all right in the oil industry and it is absolutely a shortage which is difficult for me or anyone else to believe that a shortage like this could come upon us this fast, this sudden and so severe. So I move that we adopt the two words as an amendment whereas at the present time, such shortage it appears, can be alleviated only by a reduction in use of all types of fuel. I move for the adoption of the amendment to add, it appears.

SPEAKER: Have a second? Anyone wish to speak to just the